

THE ĀSURĪ-KALPA:

A WITCHCRAFT PRACTICE

OF THE

ATHARVA-VEDA,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION, TRANSLATION, AND
COMMENTARY.

A DISSERTATION

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BY H. W. MAGOUN.

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THE ĀSURĪ-KALPA; A WITCHCRAFT PRACTICE OF THE ATHARVA-VEDA.

L—INTRODUCTION.

The ritual literature of the Atharva-Veda, like that of the other Vedas, has attached to itself certain *pariçiṣṭas*, or supplements. Of these, the thirty-fifth, according to the best accessible MS, is the Āsurī-Kalpa, an *abhicāra*, or witchcraft practice, containing rites to be used in connection with the āsuri-plant. The question as to what this plant was will be discussed below. The use of the word *kalpa* for such a text is explained by a passage in the *Atharvaṇiya-Paddhati*, which states, on the authority of Uparvarṣa,¹ that in addition to the five AV. *kalpas*—Kāuçika, Vāitāna, Nakṣatra, Cānti, and Aṅgirasa—which are called *gruḍi* ‘inspired,’ there are certain other *kalpas* which are to be considered as *smṛti* ‘handed down by tradition.’²

Three MSS have been consulted in preparing this paper. Two of them are copies of the *pariçiṣṭas* of the AV.; the third is a commentary to the Āsurī-Kalpa. All three are loans to Dr. Bloomfield from the British Government in India. Just here I may say that I am greatly indebted to Dr. Bloomfield for the use of these MSS, for the encouragement and assistance which he has given me, and for his kindness in looking over my work. The MSS are as follows:

A, large sheets of light yellow paper, bound in book form, written lengthwise in a large clear hand and with considerable care. It is a modern copy.

B, narrow sheets of light blue paper, bound in book form, written lengthwise, text fuller in places than the preceding, but in a poor hand and with numerous errors. It must be a very recent copy. Both of these MSS are numbered 23.

S (Scholiast), much older than either of the preceding, single sheets of light brown paper grown dark at the edges, written lengthwise as the other MSS, but in a very poor, though large,

¹ A *mīmāṁsā* (pūrvā-) teacher. See *Life and Essays* of H. T. Colebrooke, Vol. II, pp. 319-49.

² Cf. J. A. O. S. XI 377, Bloomfield, *On the Position of the Vāitāna-Sūtra in the Literature of the Atharva-Veda*.

hand. It contains three sections or chapters. **Part first** (folios 1b-6a') contains all the practices in brief form, and occupies about one-fourth of the MS. **Part second** (folios 6a'-7b') treats only of the externals of the principal rite, and occupies scarcely one-tenth of the MS. **Part third** is an elaborate commentary on what has preceded; but in its present condition deals with only about two-thirds of the practices, since the MS lacks some folios at the close.¹ This MS is numbered 120; but is also marked *p* (*patrāṇī*) 18; *sah.* (*sahvat*) 1880-81; and, on the last folio, written across the end on the margin, 347. From the appearance of the MS it might be as old as one hundred and fifty years; and since *sah.* 1880-81 probably has reference to Kielhorn's Report,² the MS may be as old as it looks. It contains about 200 *çloka*s.

At the beginning of **part third** it names Mahādeva as the speaker,³ who introduces his commentary (see p. 11, note 19) by saying: 'It [the mantra] is not to be uttered (performed) without teachers; by the precept of a teacher this magic power (success) [comes into being]. Accordingly in a single final commentary the Āsuri-[rite] should succeed,'—

*vinā gurūn akartavyain guruvākyena siddhidam*⁴ (cod. *siddhi*-),
ekāntimātikāmadhye (cod. *ekānta*-) *sādhayeta tad āsuri.* 2.

Mahādeva⁵ is spoken of as the seer of the divine āsuri-text,⁶ and as becomes a ṛṣi he speaks of the Gāyatri, Trīṣṭubh, and Anuṣṭubh metres (*gāyatritriṣṭubanuṣṭupchandah*), after which he proceeds to give full instructions concerning the rites.

¹ **Part first** seems to be in fact a version of the *pariçīṭa*, fuller than the text and differing from it in some passages, but still essentially the same. The chief points of difference have been noted as readings of *S*. They have been put into *çloka* form where the MS seemed to warrant it. Readings from **parts second** and **third** are so marked.

² See p. 5, foot-note 1. The MS is catalogued on p. 58.

³ The *pariçīṭas* as a whole are in the form of dialogues. Cf. Weber, *History of Indian Literature*, p. 153.

⁴ The conjectural reading *siddhidam* requires a regular fem. noun to be regarded as neu.; but for this text it may be allowable, since the MS departs widely in places from all rules of grammar, and also treats *siddhi* as a neu. in other passages.

The comma and period (, and .) have been used in all Sanskrit passages as the simplest means of transliterating the two Sanskrit marks of punctuation (| and ||).

⁵ An epithet of Rudra or Çiva, also of Viṣṇu and the name of various persons. It is an appropriate title, "Great-Lord," for the teacher of such a text,

⁶ *asya çrāyāsurimāntrasya* (cod. *çrāsu*-) *mahādeva ṛṣih.*

Apart from its subject-matter *S* possesses no little interest, because it contains abundant evidence of the character of the people having to do with its rites. It is exceedingly corrupt, as a few examples may suffice to show. The common writing for *sapta* is *satpa*; for *āsuri*, *asuri*; for *sukṣma*, *sukṣma*; for *cūrṇa*, *cūrṇa*, etc.: *juhiyat* and *juhiyāta* are used for *juhuyāt*; *mryate* for *mriyate*, etc.: *rdayām* is found for *hṛdayām*; *bhimantritenā* for *abhi-* (beginning of a sentence); *karaye* for *-yet*; *titha* for *tithir*, etc.: little or no attention is paid to *sāṁdhi*: the confusion of sibilants,¹ *s* for *ç* and *vice versa*, is exceedingly common: and other curious freaks in spelling occur, notably the use of *cy* for *c* (*cyurṇa* for *cūrṇa*, and *muñcyati* for *muñcati*), which is of some interest from a phonetic standpoint, and the writing of the word *vaçikartukāma* in eight different ways, while using it but twelve times, with a mistake of some kind in every single instance.* The errors are doubtless due in part to later copyists; but, from the present state of corruption, it may be safe to infer that the original MS was bad at the start; for it seems hardly possible that the scribes should be guilty of all the errors which it contains, even if the present MS is the result of several successive transcriptions. The nature of the mistakes stamps the writer at once as an ignorant and perhaps degraded person. It is about such a document as might be expected to be written in English by some Voodoo doctor among the blacks of the South. Numerous repetitions serve to light up otherwise hopeless passages, and when the brief outlines of the *pariçiṣṭa* are combined with the commentary the whole practice becomes clear. No two of the MSS exactly agree in the order in which the different forms of the rite are treated, and *B* has a passage not found in either *A* or *S*. Fortunately the *pariçiṣṭa* is mostly written in *clokas*, which is of great service in determining the true reading.² In style the *pariçiṣṭa* is somewhat like the *sūtras*, being terse and technical in its forms of expression, and consisting mostly of what may

¹ Cf. Proc. A. O. S., May, 1886. Introduction to the Study of the Old-Indian Sibilants; by Prof. Bloomfield and Dr. Edward H. Speiser.

² It may be said in addition that there is hardly a sentence in the entire MS in which there are not mistakes in the case-forms, the most common being the use of a stem-form for an acc.

³ In the text, where a MS reading is of no importance, it has been thought best to omit it; so, in the quotations from *S* the MS reading has been omitted where the emendation is obvious, where the same mistake is repeated several times, and, in a few instances, where MS evidence warrants the change; on the other hand, where it has been thought best to do so, the passage has been quoted *verbatim*.

be called rules ; the commentary is, of course, more like an ordinary text.

In this paper the attempt has been made not only to present a correct version of the *pariçiṣṭa*, so far as the material at hand would allow, but also to reproduce to some extent the scholiast by citing, mostly from the first division, such passages, with the text, as bear on the same part of the rite, and by incorporating into the commentary accompanying the translation such other passages as throw light upon those already cited, or give an idea of additional matters not treated of in the text at all. In this way most of the salient points of *S* have been preserved without, at the same time, copying its tiresome minuteness of detail and unending repetitions—not that the commentary is of so much importance in itself, for, as has been shown, it represents the work of a person of little intelligence apparently, certainly of small acquirements ; but that the picture of the whole might be as complete as possible. The practice of witchcraft forms a dark chapter in the history of mankind, and anything that throws light upon the attitude of mind in which its devotees have practiced their curious rites is not to be despised. The “meditations” of *S* may not be without their suggestions to those who care to read between the lines, and the whole practice is a curious bit of evidence of the power of superstition over the human mind.

While the *Āsurī-Kalpa* has proved a rich field for emendation, and has afforded some opportunity for conjecture, it has not been altogether unfruitful in new material, as the following list will show.

SIMPLE STEMS.

Denominative Verb: *pistaya*, to grind up, make into meal.

Nouns (members of compounds): *nastika* [*naṣṭi*], destruction. *ravi*,¹ a tree or plant of some kind. *ṣaḍi* (not in a comp.), a collection of six. *sruca* (?) [*sruc*], sacrifice-ladle.

Adjectives: *pretaka* [*preta*], belonging to a dead [man]. Possibly (?) *jigāisa*, desiring to conquer.

Particles: *klīñ*, *kṣāuñ*, and *grīñ*.²

Analogical Vocative: *duhite* [*duhitar*], O daughter.

New Meanings or Uses: *sureṣvari* (compound stem), *āsurī* (plant and probably also goddess). So *lakṣmi*, apparently and possibly *grī*. *caturtham* (?), fourthly (as adverb).

¹ See page 25, foot-note 4.

² Evidently from *grī* ‘beauty, welfare.’ These words are used as part of a muttered spell, and have, therefore, no particular meaning.

COMPOUND STEMS.

Nouns: *aprajātva*, childlessness. *uikaraṇa*, overcoming (?).

Adjectives: *dakṣinākarnīka*, having its point (ear) to the south. *devīja*, goddess-born. *raktavāsasa*, having a reddish garment. *vācyaga*, subdued. Possibly *pratyāmukha*, facing.

Neuters as Adverbs: *dinatrayam*, at the three parts of the day (A. M., M., and P. M.) *dināṣṭakam*, at the eight parts (watches) of the day. Possibly (?) *saptāhanam*, at the seventh dawn.

COMPOUNDS OF A MORE GENERAL CHARACTER.

aparājaya, invincibleness. *karmakārikā* (fem. of adj. *-raka*), deed-performer. *nāgendra*, a plant, probably Betel. *vācīkartukāma*, the desire to render submissive. Possibly also *surati*, a plant of some kind.

A few words have as yet baffled all attempts at a solution. They will be mentioned as they occur.

That the Āsuri-Kalpa must at one time have occupied a position of some importance appears from the fact that it is mentioned, according to Weber, Ind. Stud. XIII 415, under the name Āsuriyah Kalpah in the Mahābhāṣya IV 1, 19, Vārttikam f. 19b. In this connection it may be added that the conjecture offered by Professor Bloomfield (J. A. O. S. XI 378): "pañcakalpah is probably not to be understood (with Weber, Ind. Stud. XIII 455) as one studying five different *kalpas*, i. e. *grāuta-sūtras*, but means an Atharvavedin who is familiar with these five *kalpas*," i. e. the five belonging to the AV., has recently been confirmed by the discovery, made by the same scholar, of the word *pañcakalpi* (stem *-in*) used in the colophon of a Kāuç. MS¹ to mean the writer of a Kāuç. MS. In connection with *pañcakalpah*, says Weber (loc. cit.), the Mahābhāṣya (Vārtt. 3f. 67a) mentions the words *kālpasūtrah*, *pārāçarakañkikah*, and *mātrikalpikah*. This last word Weber does not attempt to define, but says of it: "Letzteres Wort ist in der vorliegenden Beziehung unklar." In the Kāuçika-Sūtra, 8, 24, is mentioned a gaṇa of hymns (AV. II 2, VI 111, and VIII 6) under the title *mātrnāmāni*, the object of which is the preventing or removing of evil; and Atharva-Parīciṣṭa² 34, 4, mentions the same gaṇa with the

¹ No. 86. Report on the Search for Sanskrit MSS in the Bombay Presidency, 1880-81, by F. Kielhorn.

² **A** No. 32, **B** No. 34. The latter numbering makes the Āsuri-Kalpa No. 37; for each MS gives between it and the Gaṇamālā two other parīciṣṭas—

addition of AV. IV 20, under the same name.¹ It also adds, *iti mātrgānah*.² As *kālpasūtrah* means one familiar with the Kalpa-Sutras, and *pārāçarakalpikah* seems to have been used of a person who had studied the Parāçara-Kalpa,³ it is safe to infer that the word *mātrkalpikah* meant one who was familiar with or made use of the Mātr-Kalpa, and such a text may yet be found. If it ever appears, Professor Bloomfield conjectures that it will prove to be a ritual for the use of a priest in connection with this Mātrgāna. The presence of these words in the Mahābhāṣya, which contains many Atharvanic words not found elsewhere, cited as they are without explanation, goes to show that they were all well understood by the people of Patañjali's time, and therefore referred to rites and practices so familiar to the Hindoos that the mere name was sufficient to make the reader understand the author's meaning. As they are all Atharvanic, and the word *Āsurī-Kalpah* is also Atharvanic, there can be no doubt that the *Āsurī-Kalpah* and the *Āsurīyah Kalpah* are essentially the same, though the text may have suffered some changes at the hands of later authorities on the uses of *āsurī*, and it is evident that the *pariçiṣṭa* must have had considerable currency among those who made use of Atharvan rites. Additional evidence of the familiarity of the Hindoos with such practices is to be found in the Laws of Manu (XI 63), where the practice of witchcraft (*abhicāra*) and of magic with roots (*mūlakarman*) is mentioned in a list of secondary crimes (*upapātaka*). This reference also makes clear the fact that such practices are old; for they must have been well established when the Mānava-Dharmaçāstra took its present shape, and go back, therefore, in all probability, some hundreds of years before our era. On the other hand, it must be said that the MSS bear marks of a late origin. *S* mentions the Hindoo trinity (*brahma-viṣṇuhara*), contains the Buddhistical word *hevara*, uses the gen. for the loc. and ins., etc.; and all the MSS contain forms (transfers to the *a*-declension, etc.) due to analogy and not cited in any of the dictionaries, besides exhibiting in the subject-matter certain

the Mahābhiseka and the Anuloma-Kalpa. *B* does not number the latter or the *Āsurī-Kalpa*, but has after the Mahābhiseka what is evidently a corruption for 35. The PETERS. LEX., with *A*, makes the Anuloma-Kalpa No. 34. The numbering of *B* has been taken to correspond to Dr. Bloomfield's edition of the Kāuç.

¹ Cf. Weber, *Omina et Portenta*, pp. 350-53.

² Not in *A* or *B*; but see Bloomfield, Kāuç. 8, 24, note 5.

³ Cf. Weber, *Ind. Stud.* XIII 445.

tendencies which are recognized as modern. They are mentioned below.

The word *āsuri* is the fem. of an adj. from *asura* "spirit, demon," and therefore means primarily, "belonging to, or having to do with, spirits or demons." Under the form *āsuri*, the PETERS. LEX. gives the meaning, schwarzter Senf, Sinapis ramosa Roxb.¹ From the evidence of the MSS, *āsuri* must be a plant with a pungent leaf, and must bear fruit (*phala*) and flowers; moreover, a religious meditation (*dhyāna*) of *S*, which can hardly refer to anything else, speaks of the "bright four-sided granter of wishes"; then of the same as "reddish," "blue-colored," "having a sword in the hand," "having a hook in the hand," "having a 'red-stone' in the hand," etc. All these expressions are based upon characteristics of the plant, as will appear below. In describing the oblation the *pariçiṣṭa* says: 'The wise man should make meal of *rājikā* (*rājikāṁ piṣṭayed budhāḥ*), while *S* in the same passage speaks of *āsuri* as made into meal. The word *rājikā*, in fact, occurs in *S* only in *part third*, never in connection with *āsuri*, and always where the latter might be expected. The same is true of the word *rājasarṣapa*, for example,—

*vidhāne pūrvavat karma-pratimāṁ rājasarṣapāīḥ,
pūrvavat kārayen nyāsām, chedayet pūrvavat api.*

'In [his] preparation, as before, [one should cause] an image for the rite [to be made] with black mustard seeds. As in the former case, he should cause the [limb]-placing ceremony to be performed; he should cause [the image] to be chopped also as before.' The word *rājikā*, which was left untranslated above, is the common name for the Black Mustard of India. This plant has bright yellow flowers, and bears small dark seeds contained in a pod which is tipped by a long, straight, flattened, and seedless beak.² In all members of the Mustard Family, the pungency pervades the entire plant.³ There can be no doubt that this was the plant actually used, and it is plain that the ignorant and superstitious devotee saw a goddess in the plant itself,⁴ and found,

¹ Wm. Roxburg, *Flora Indica*, Semapore, 1832.

² Hooker, *Flora of British India*, I 157. The Black Mustard of Europe, which is closely related, is described as having smooth erect pods which are somewhat four-sided and tipped with a sword-shaped style. They contain small dark brown or nearly black seeds. The Black Mustard of the U. S. is similar.

³ Gray, *Introduction to Structural and Systematic Botany, and Vegetable Physiology*, 1873, p. 389 f.

⁴ Cf. the frequent similar personifications of the AV.

perhaps, in the effect of the seeds upon his palate an evidence of her supernatural power.¹ The "red-stone" (*rudhira*) mentioned above, and defined by the dictionaries as a certain red stone, not a ruby, here plainly means the seeds in the pod of the āsuri-plant, while the pod itself is probably the "sword," and possibly also the "hook."

The chief object to be attained was the subduing of another to one's will, or the destruction of an enemy. The use of the hymns of the AV. for the latter purpose is sanctioned by the Laws of Manu (XI 33): 'With the thought 'one should utter (perform) the hymns of the Atharva-Veda,' [let him be] without hesitation; the 'word' is the Brahman's weapon, you know, with it the twice-born should smite [his] enemies,'—

[*grutir atharvāṅgirasiḥ kuryād ity avicārayan,
vāk gastram vāi brāhmaṇasya tena hanyād arin dvijāḥ.* 33.]

The other practice, as has been stated, is pronounced criminal by the same authority. The rite itself is briefly, as follows: after certain introductory ceremonies, the person grinds up mustard into meal, with which he makes an image representing the person whom he desires to overcome or destroy. Having muttered certain spells to give efficiency to the rite, he chops up the image, anoints it with ghee (melted butter), curds, or some similar substance, and finally burns it in a "sacred-fire-pot." The idea that an image thus destroyed accomplishes the destruction of the person represented, or at least does him serious harm, still survives in India, and it can be duplicated in almost any country in which witchcraft has been practiced. The Sāma-vidhāna-Brāhmaṇa contains a similar practice, in which an image of dough is roasted so as to cause the moisture to exude, and it is then cut to pieces and eaten by the sorcerer. An image of wax has been largely used in various countries, the life of the enemy represented having been supposed to waste away as the wax gradually melted over a slow fire. This process was known to the Greeks, to the Romans, to the Germans, and even to the Chaldeans.² A vari-

¹ This may also account for the name, since at the time when these practices originated the Hindoos were both very superstitious and extremely unscientific in all matters pertaining to natural phenomena, and they would, therefore, quite naturally assign the pungency of the plant to some spirit or demon.

² Cf. Theocr. Idyll II 28, Hor. Epop. XVII 76; Grimm, Deutsche Mythologie, 1047 ff.; Lenormant, Chaldean Magic, p. 5, foot-note 1, and p. 63; Burnell, Sāma-vidhāna-Brāhmaṇa, Vol. I, Introd. p. xxv, and see p. 26, foot-note 1, end.

ation of the same performance is to fill the image with pins, attach a hated name to it, and set it away to melt or dry up according to the material used. This is said to be still practiced in some parts of America, England and the Continent.¹ It is reported that a practice of this kind, i. e. the making of an effigy to be used for his destruction by means of sorcery, was tried on Henry VI of England; and early in the present century a similar trick was used against the Nizām of the Deccan.² Among the Indians of our own country, the Ojibway sorcerers were supposed to be able to transfer a disease from one person to another by a somewhat similar process. They were accustomed to make, for the patient who paid them, a small wooden image representing his enemy; then, piercing the heart of this image, they put in small powders, and pretended by this means, with the help of certain incantations, to accomplish the desired end.³ The fact that an image has been so universally used in witchcraft practices is no more remarkable than the fact that all nations have made use of images to represent their gods in religious worship, and the two things may both be referred to some law of the human mind by which similar conditions produce similar results. There is no discoverable connection between the Ojibway's wooden image and the Hindoo's effigy of dough other than the mere fact that each is the outcome of a desire to injure, and nature teaches them both to think of what is practically the same expedient.

The minor practices of the Āsuri-Kalpa, which are designed either to work harm to an enemy or good to the practitioner, will be found in their turn below. They seem to indicate a desire on the part of the author to furnish a short cut to power and to some of the more important blessings which were supposed to be gained by the sacrifices prescribed by the Brāhmaṇas; indeed, the practices of the Āsuri-Kalpa, as a whole, seem to show a disposition to supplant certain religious forms by simpler magical rites, while endeavoring at the same time to obtain powers for harm which religious practices either left in the hands of the educated Brahmins or did not bestow at all. It must be added, however, that the belief in the efficacy of repetition, so conspicuous in the modern "prayer-mills" of Thibet, is here plainly to be seen. In the Āsuri-Kalpa, as in all other Indian witchcraft practices, there is, of course, an underlying stratum of skepticism; but the

¹ Conway, Demonology and Devil-Lore, Vol. I, p. 272.

² Lyall, Asiatic Studies, p. 88.

³ Dorman, Origin of Primitive Superstitions, p. 361.

great power of the priests is tacitly recognized by the care enjoined upon one who undertakes to subdue a Brahman. The practices for obtaining blessings are confined to the latter part of the *pariçiṣṭa*,¹ and, from their general character, seem like an extension of the original practices, perhaps for the purpose of giving additional currency or respectability to the whole; they may possibly be regarded as a further indication that the *Āsurī-Kalpa*, however ancient its main practices may be, is, in its present shape, comparatively modern.

At the present time in America, the interest felt in witchcraft is shown by our surprisingly large and growing literature on the subject.² In India the interest felt is of a different nature, but it is none the less strong. To the Hindoo the subject is a living one, and while the native literature referring to magic and superstition has always been great, at present, especially in the vernacular dialects, it is enormous, and forms the favorite reading of the people.³ So great is its hold upon the natives that Lyall says of it:⁴ "It is probable that in no other time or country has witchcraft ever been so comfortably practiced as it is now in India under British rule";⁵ again, "in India everyone believes in witchcraft as a fact"; and just below, "In every village of Central India they keep a hereditary servant whose profession it is to ward off impending hailstorms by incantations, by consulting the motion of water in certain pots, and by dancing about with a sword." Beside this may be placed the statement of Conway,⁶ that there are 84,000 charms to produce evil made use of in Ceylon at the present time. In so far as it throws light on the past history of such practices, the work on the *Āsurī-Kalpa* may not have been in vain.

¹ Both MSS recognize a division of the practices into groups—**A** into two, as shown by the figures (1 and 2), and **B** apparently into three; for it has a two (2) where **A** has one (1), and what may be a one (1) in the passage which it alone contains. It lacks the number at the end. The divisions of **A** have been marked in Roman numerals, since it has been thought best to number the *çlokas*, although the MSS do not do so. The practices of the second division are all of the same general nature.

² See Poole's Index, third edition, 1882, under the headings Witchcraft, Demonology, Magic, etc.

³ Burnell, *Sāmavidhāna-Brāhmaṇa*, I, p. xxv.

⁴ *Asiatic Studies*, 1882, p. 96.

⁵ "Of course the witch is punished when he takes to poisoning or pure swindling" (*loc. cit.*)

⁶ *Demonology and Devil-Lore*, I 274.

II.—TEXT, CRITICAL NOTES, AND EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOLIAST.

om̄ namo rudrāya¹, om̄ kaṭuke kaṭukapattre² subhaga āsuri rakte³ raktavāsase⁴, atharvaṇasya duhite⁵ 'ghore 'ghorakarmakā-rike⁶, amukam̄ hana⁷ hana dha dha paca paca mantha⁸ mantha tāvad dha tāvat paca yāvan me vaṭam̄ ānayaḥ⁹ svāhā¹⁰ ḡayyā-vaṣṭhitāyās¹¹ tāvaj¹² japed yāvat svapiti, prasthitāyā¹³ gatim̄ dha dha dha svāhā svāhā, upavīṣṭāyā bhagam̄¹⁴ dha dha dha svāhā svāhā, suptāyā¹⁵ mano dha dha dha svāhā svāhā svāhā svāhā, prabuddhāyā hṛdayam̄ dha dha dha svāhā svāhā svāhā svāhā.¹⁶

*athātā āsurīkalpam¹⁷ upadekṣyāmo¹⁸ 'tharvaṇah,
nāsyās titiḥ¹⁹ na nakṣatram̄ nōpavāso vidhiyate. I.*

ghṛtādisarvadravyeṣv²⁰ āsuri²¹ ḡatajāpitā,

1. **A** and **S** omit these three words. **S** begins *grīganeçāya namah*.—2. MSS (all three) regularly *patra*.—3. **B** and **S** omit.—4. So MSS (all three), fem. from transition stem in *-a*.—5. So MSS (all three), analog. voc., as if from stem in *-ā*. In all cases where an *a*- is elided it is written in the MSS.—6. **B** -*karike*, **S** -*kārake*; but in one passage (p. 23) -*kāriṇi*.—7. **B** *hana*, **A** *hana* 2.—8. **A** omits.—9. MSS -*naya*.—10. **S** *amukasya* *matim̄* dha dha, *upavīṣṭasya* *subhagam̄* (cod. *cu-*) dha dha, *suptāyā* *mano* dha dha, *prabuddhāyā* *hṛdayam̄* dha dha *hana hana paca paca* (cod. *pra-*) *matha matha* *tāvad* dha dha *yāvan me vaṭam̄* *āyāti hṛīn hum̄ phaṭ svāhā*, *iti mūlamantrah*. **S** also calls it *atharvaṇamantrah*.—11. **A** *çīṣyā-*.—12. **B** *tāyāḥ etāv-*.—13. **B** *prachitāyā**pagatim̄*.—14. **B** *magam̄*.—15. **B** omits, **A** *svapīlāyā*.—16. **S** *part third* *devadattasya* ['Of a certain one,' technical use] *matim̄* dha dha, *upavīṣṭāyā bhagam̄* dha dha, *suptāyā mano* (cod. *marā*) dha dha, *prabuddhāyā hṛdayam̄* (cod. *ṛda-*) dha dha *paca hana matha* (cod. *ra atha*) *tāvad* dha *yāvan me* (cod. *-vakte*) *vaṭam̄ ānayo* (cod. *-ya*) *hum̄ phaṭ svāhā*.—17. **B** *āsurim̄*.—18. **B** -*değad* *atharvaṇah*, **S** *vyākhāsyāmah*.—19. **B** *na tasyās titiḥ nitratram̄*. **S** *part third*

*grīmāhāde (-māhādeva) uvāca,
grīnu vatsa mahāmantram̄ āsurīvidhim̄ uttamam,
na ca titiḥ (-thir) na [ca] nakṣatram̄ na māsāunyāiva (!) (māsāny
eva ?) vāsare,
na sthānaṁ nakta (-te ?) tu kāpi na vevṭa (!) (veṭa ?) ca vidhi-
yate. I.*

—20. **A** *ghṛtādidravyasarveṣv*.—21. The mantra *nāsyās*, etc.?

pattrādyavayavaq¹ cāsyā jīgīṣā² cānupāyini,
 hantukāmo hi ḡatrūṇç ca vaṇīkartuṇ³ ca bhūpatīn. 2.
 āsurīclakṣṇapīṭājyaṁ⁴ juhuyād akṛtīm budhah,
 arkāidhasāgnīm⁵ prajvālyā cītvāstreṇākṛtīm tu⁶ tām. 3.
 pādāgrato ḡasahasram juhuyād yasya vaq⁷ asāu,
 ḡṛtāktayā strī vaqīnī⁸ pālācāgnāu dvijottamah⁹. 4.
 guḍāktayā kṣatriyā¹⁰ tu vāīyās tu dadhīmīcīrayā¹¹,
 ḡūdrās tu lavaṇāmīcīrāi¹² rājikāṁ piṣṭayed budhah. 5.
 ā saptahāl¹³ sarva eta āsurīhomato vaqāh,
 kaṭukālīlena trisāmīdhyāṁ kulochedām karoti hi. 6.
 qunām¹⁴ tu lomabhiḥ¹⁵ sārdham apasmārī tribhir dināh,

1. **A** yatrā-, **B** patrā.-2. **A** jīkāiṣā, **B** jīgāiṣāgāmītugāmīnī.
 —3. **A** -kurvaṇç ca. **S** alha rājā, vacīkartukāmāh; but elsewhere rājavāṇīkartukāmāh. Cf. part *third*, rāmāvāṇīkaraṇākāmāh and ḡatrūṇīhātānākāmāh.—4. **B** āsurīm. **S** āsurīyā supīṭāyā (cod. surṣīpiṣṭā) pratīkṛtīm kṛtvārkaṣamīdbhir agnīm (cod. -iddhīh agni) prajvālyā dākṣīṇāpādārābhyā [or -pādenā-] (cod. -pādā-) ḡāstreṇā cītvā (cod. cītvā) ḡṛtāktām juhuyāt 108 aṣṭottaraṇātāhomēna vaqī (cod. vaqī varqī). [Sc. rājā bhavati.]
 —5. **A** arkedhanā-, **B** arke.-6. **A** nu.-7. **A** vatyasāu.-8. **S** āsurīsupīṭāprakṛtīm kṛtvā vāmapādēnākramya ḡāstreṇā cītvā ḡṛtāktām juhuyāt 108 saptāhe siddhīh (cod. sidhi).—9. **S** pālācāṣamīdbhir agnīm (cod. -idhīh agni; similarly below) prajvālyāsūrīm (cod. -ri; so regularly) ḡṛtāktām madha (!) (madhu-sahitām ?) juhuyāt 108 homēna ḡātyāhevāra (-varo?) vaqam ānayati.—10. **S** khadīrasamīdbhir agnīm prajvālyāsūrīm madhu-sahitām (cod. madha) 108 homēna saptāhe va (!) (vaqī) bhavati.
 —11. **B** madhūmīcīrayā. **S** udumbarasamīdbhir ... dadhyaktaṁ (cod. dardhoktaṁ).—12. **B** mīcīrītām. [Sc. pratīkāyāh ?] **S** udumbarasamīdbhir ... lavaṇāmīcīrām kṛtvā trisāmīdhyām (-ān) juhuyāt 108. For an enemy, **S** āsurīm kaṭukālīlāktaṁ, tīmbakāṣṭe agni (!) (nimbaṅkāṣṭenāgnīm) prajvālyā homayo (-yēt) 108 homēna saṭpāhāṇṇā (!) (saṭpāhanam ?) [or -āhe] mriyale riṣūh.
 —13. **B** samāhat.—14. **S** cvetakhararomā (!) asuri (!) ekīkṛtya (-romṇāsūrīm ekī- or -romāsūrīm cākī-?) yasya nāñnmāmī (!) (nāmna ?) juhuyād akasmād apasmārāu (-re?) gūdyate (!) (guhyate ?).—15. **B** (not in **A** or **S**) qunām tu lomabhi (-bhir) atra patramrlīpya (!) (patramrlīpya?) rliṅgām (!) (liṅgām ?) vā rāja-sarṣapāliḥ samāliṇyātu (-ya tu ?) bhūpāyet (!) (dhū-?),
 gāureregram (-rāgram ?) tato dadyān mriyale sāva (sarvāh ?) samīcayaḥ,
 abhakṣabhaṅgo cārogyaṁ sarvaroga prayojanam.
 samjñātā (-tāh ?) piṇḍapātāu (-pātikā?) jāpāl pāpā bhavanti hi,
 ekādaṣānūjapātavyām kulochedakṣato (-cchedaḥ kṣa-?) bhavet. 1. (?)

nivṛtīḥ¹ kṣīramadhuājyāir² lavaṇena tu sajvari.³ 7.
 arkāidhaḥsamidagnāu⁴ tu⁵ karoti⁶ sphoṭasamībhavam,
 teṣām uphaṣamam⁷ vidyāt sureçvaryā⁸ gṛtena ca. 8.
 arkakṣīrāklayārkagnāv akṣinī sphoṭayed⁹ dvīṣaḥ,
 galasumāḥsaṁ tasyāīva nirmālyam citibhasma¹⁰ ca. 9.
 eṣām cūrṇena saṁspṛṣṭo hāsyacilo¹¹ 'bhijāyate,
 ajākṣīrāklayā homā¹² tasya mokṣo¹³ vidhīyate. 10.
 tagaram kuṣṭham¹⁴ mānsī ca tasyāḥ pattrāṇī cāīva hi,
 etāīḥ ḡlakṣṇāīs tu saṁspṛṣṭaḥ¹⁵ pṛṣṭhatāḥ paridhāvati. 11.
 tasyāḥ phalāni mūlāni surabhihasti medasā,¹⁶
 sūkṣmataddravyasāṁsparcād¹⁷ anudhāvati acetasaḥ.¹⁸ 12.

vāīyasādhane homyāç cūrṇāī (homayec chūrṇāī?) suratibhiḥ (?)
 kṛtām,
 catuṣpathē tu ḡudrasya padminyotkaraṇe yatu (yā-?).
 likhitvā nāma saṅgrhya karāgrāngulisiṣitam (-piḍi-?),
 cīrakṛpiḍājvarah ḡulām vimatiḥ svastyasamgatīḥ [svastyasamgatīḥ.]
 valpādyā (kal-?) vā prayoktavyā vrāhmaṇādicasuṣṭaye (brā-),
 evān saṁhātā abhicāraç [ca] caturṇām api darçitaḥ.

1. MSS nivṛtīḥ. **S** juhuyāt pranmānayane (!) (pratyānayane?)
 kṣīrāktām kṛtvā homa (-mam?) 108 tataḥ sthito bhavati.—2. **B**
 ḡīranaghājyāir.—3. **S** āsurīm lavaṇamīcīrām juhuyāt 108 saptāhe
 jvareṇa prathānayane (!) (pratyā-.) kṣīrāktām juhuyāt 108 para-
 svastho bhavati.—4. **B** arghedhāsa-, **A** arkeñdha-. **S** āsurīm-
 bapattrāṇī 108 (cod. -nīva-).—5. **B** omits.—6. **A** karovisphoṭa-,
B karūte pūruṣa sphoṭa-. **S** hutvā sa visphoṭakāīr gṛhyate.—7.
A upasa-.—8. **S** prathānayane (pratyā-) āsurīm kṛtvā 108 svasto
 bhavati.—9. **B** ḡamye. **S** āsurīm arkakṣīrāktām kṛtvā... homayed
 yad asya nānmāmī (!) (nāmnā?) gṛhṇātī tasyākṣi sphoṭayati. For
 cure, **S** āsurīm kṣīrāktām juhuyāt 108.—10. **S** āsurīm citibhasma
 mahāmaṇsaḥ pretakāś nirmālyam ekikṛtya 108.—11. **S** mantri-
 tena cāīnena (cūrṇ-) yasya spūnāti (!) (spṛçati?) sa unīmatto
 bhavati.—12. **B** hometa.—13. **S** āsurīm ajākṣīrāktām kṛtvā svastho
 bhavati. In **S** the order is "Eye-twitching," "Epilepsy," "Fever,"
 "Loss of sense," "Boils."—14. **A** kuṣṭa, **B** nagaram kūṣṭha.—
 15. **S** abhimanritena yasya spūcāti (spṛ-) sa pṛṣṭhato 'nucaro
 bhavati.—16. **A** surarbhī ha.—17. **A** sūkṣmetāt dra-, **B** sūktām
 tadra.—18. **S** has,—
 uṣṭram tagaram kuṣṭham usrām othasiitghāthām (!) (u u u) paṣ-
 caka (pañcakam),
 āsurīpūspasāmīyuktām sūkṣmacūrṇām tu kārayet 108, (cod. -yet,
 tenācatābhi 108)
 abhimanritena (cod. maṇtri-) yasya cāti (spṛçati) ḡavaço (sa vaço)
 bhavati (bhavet). 14.

achidrapattrāṇy asita učīrah¹ sarṣapāś tathā,
 etaccūrṇāt pūrvaphalam² etāiç cāivāparājayah³. 13. I.
 kusumāni manahçilā priyañgutagarāṇi⁴ ca,
 gajendramadasamyuktam⁵ kīm kurvāṇas tv akīmkaram⁶. 14.
 yāç ca⁷ striyo 'bhigachanti tā vaçāh pādalepiñah⁸,
 sapuṣpāṁ⁹ tāṁ samādāyāñjanāṁ nāgakeçaram¹⁰. 15.
 anenāktābhyaṁ¹¹ akṣibhyāñ yāñ¹² paçyet sa ca kiñkarah,
 añjanāṁ tagaramū kuñham¹³ devijam kāñham eva ca. 16.
 māñsi ca sarvabhūtānāṁ sāubhāgyasya tu kāraṇam¹⁴,
 tatsamidhāñ lakṣahomān nidhānam paçyate mahat¹⁵. 17.
 sarpir[dadhi¹⁶] madhvaktañpatrāṇāṁ vṛddhaputri¹⁷ sahasratah,
 rājyam tu labhate vaçyāṁ tatpattratrisahasratah¹⁸. 18.

1. **B** uçīram.—2. **B** puts çloka 13-18 directly after the passage which it alone contains.—3. **A** yuvatphala ghale cāi-. **S** has instead,—

āsurīpuṣpapatrāṇi puṣpāñi ca phalāñi ca,
 nāgendraphalasamyuktam sūkṣmacūrṇam tu kārayet 108,
 abhimantritena yana (yasya) spṛçati sa vaço bhavati (-vet). 15.

—4. **B** mriyāñyu ta-. **S** has,—

manahçilā priyañguç ca tagaramū nāgakeçaram,
 āsurīphalasamyuktam sūkṣmacūrṇam tu kārayet 108 [aṣṭācatāñi],
 abhimantritena ya (yasya) spṛti (spṛçati) sa vaço bhavati (-vet). 16.

—5. **B** gajeñdrāsa sañ-.—6. **A** akṛdvaram.—7. **A** yasyā.—8. **A** -lepanah, **B** pāraññadalepalāt.—9. **B** puññpāññat̄sa.—10. MSS -kesaram.—11. **B** anjanetāktām.—12. **B** yāñ yāñ paçyet sa kiñkarah. **S** abhimantritena cakṣuṣy añjayitvā yāñ nirikṣayati sa vaço bhavati.—13. **B** omits, **A** kuñta.—14. **S** has instead,—
 āsuryañgapañcakenātāñnam dhūpayet,
 yasyāgagañdham (!) (yo 'sya gandham?) tighrati (ji-) sa vaçyo bhavati. 18.

It also reverses the order of the two following statements.—15. **S** has,—

dadhimadhugṛtāktām hutvāsurim juhuyāt,
 mahānidhānañ labhate daçasahasrāñi,
 çatāyur vāi puruṣā (-sañ). 20.

—16. Omit on account of metre? **S** āsurīñ madhugṛtāktām hutvā ... labhate putram. 19.—17. **A** vṛdvapannīm.—18. **B** tatpattratridhānam ... -trisahasratah, repeating from çloka 17 last pāda to 18 end inclusive. It then has sārdham ... acetasañ (çloka 7 end of first pāda to çloka 12 end inclusive), after which it continues with çloka 19 (suvarṇa-). **S** has,—
 rājyārthañ madhugṛtāktām juhuyād āsurīlakṣmīm,
 sa rājyāñ labhate. 21.

suvarṇasahasraprāptis¹ taṭpattrāṇāṁ tu lakṣataḥ,
sahasrajaṭā² ca tadvad udake kṣirabhakṣiṇāḥ. 19.

vāriḍūrṇe 'tha kalaṭe³ paṭaṭipallavān kṣipet⁴,
snānād alakṣmyā⁵ mucuseta sāuvarṇakalaṭe⁶ 'pi tu'. 20.

vināyakebhyaḥ snānato dāurbhāgyāc cāiva durbhagāt⁷,
pṛṣṭhataṭ cānudhāvanti saṁsprṣṭā⁸ udakena tu. 21.

uṣīram tagaraṇaṁ kuṣṭham⁹ muṣṭā¹⁰ taṭpatrasarṣapāḥ,
cūrṇenābhihitas¹¹ tūrṇam īcvara 'pi vaço bhavet. 22.

tulasī bhūmadā devī cūrṇasprṣṭas¹² tathā vaṣṭ,
rājabhaye¹³ surecvari mārjanād¹⁴ dhāraṇāt tathā. 23.

na¹⁵ syād asyādbhutaṁ kiṁ cin¹⁶ na kṣudropadravas¹⁷ tathā,
nānāīcvaryam¹⁸ nāprajatvam¹⁹ yasya devy āsuri gṛhe. 24.

yasya devyāsuri gṛhe²⁰. II.

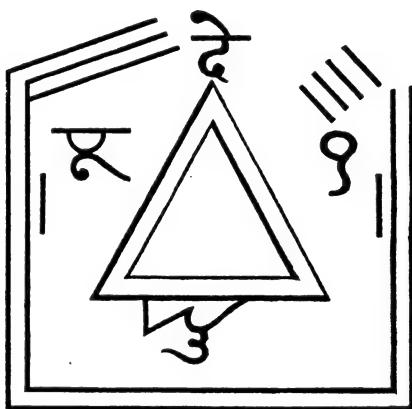
ity āsurikalpaḥ samāptah²¹.

1. **A** svarṇasahasrasyāptis tu taṭpusphāṇāṁ. **S** suvarṇātham āsurīphalāni dačasahasraṇi hutvā suvarṇasahasram labhate.—
2. **B** sahaja-. **S** payobhakṣy āsuryudake prakṣināṁ (!) (dakṣi-?) dityāmukho (!) (pratyā-?) bhūtvā dačasahasram jape. —3. **A** -laṭe lokeci-. —4. **B** -vāṁ kṣapet. **S** āsuripallavāir aṣṭaṭātoti-maṇṭritam (!) (aṣṭottaraṣṭābhimantritam?) saṁpūrṇāṁ kṛtvā atma (!) (kṛtvātmānam?) snāpayeta (-yed?) ma (!) (ātmānam?) dhūpayet. —5. **B** -kṣmī. **S** alakṣmīm muṇcyati (!) (muṇcati), vināye kopasvarga (kopasargam?) muṇcati. —6. **A** -phalaṭe. —7. **B** -pi va. —8. **A** -gān. **S** durbhagā subhagā bhavet. —9. MSS saṁsprṣṭa. —10. **A** kṛṣṭam, **B** kuṣṭam. —11. **B** mastārāsnātataṭpatra. —12. **B** -bhihatas. —13. **B** -ṣṭasas. —14. **A** -bhaya. —15. **B** marjanāt, vāraṇās tathā. **S** has instead, cyartutha (!) (caturtham?) jvarādibhūtān aṣṭaṭātāni jape mārjayena (!) (-nena?) prakṣinā (-ṇam?) mucusati (-te?). —16. **B** na ca tasyadbhū-. —17. **A** -ci na. —18. **S** has instead, āsurīpiṣṭam gaṭavārāṇn (!) (-raṇ?) pari-jaspya (-apya) cirasi dhāpayeta gṛhito mucati (-cyate?), duṣṭagṛhitāṇāṁ āsurīm homayet 108 tālo mucusati (-te) kṣipram. —19. **B** -nīcva-. —20. **B** -pramataṁ. **S** has instead, atha mantrām pra-kāṣayati lokānāṁ hitakāmyayā, āsurīmantrāḥ saṁpūrṇam (-ṇo) astu ('stu). —21. MSS gṛhe iti. —22. **A** -taḥ. 35.

III.—TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY.

Om, obeisance to Rudra : om, O pungent one, thou of the pungent leaf, blessed āsuri, reddish one, thou of the reddish garment, O daughter of atharvan, non-terrific one, non-terrific wonder-worker (deed-performer), 'so-and-so' smite, smite, burn, burn, cook, cook, crush, crush, so long burn, so long cook, until thou hast brought [him] into my power : Svāha!

This is the so-called fundamental formula (*mūlamantra*). Preceding it *S* gives, somewhat at length, a preparation rite (*puraç-caraṇavidhi*), in which a triangular fire-pot is prescribed for use in reverencing the goddess. **Part third** gives a diagram of it which is here duplicated. It appears that the altar-mouth was so



placed that one angle pointed to the south ; for the diagram has *pū* for *pūrvā* "east," *u* for *udīci* "north," *de* probably for *dakṣinā* "south," and a figure one (1) which may easily be a corruption for *pr*, *pratīci* "west." Cf. (*part first*) *puruṣahastapramāṇe* (cod. *-nām*) *trikonakundā*¹ *vediyonisahitām satvā* (cod. *satvā*) *dakṣinā-*

¹ 'Good-offering, good oblation.' Used at the end of invocations very much as we use Amen.

² The equilateral triangle has been a favorite figure in mysticism as well as in magic. See description of the pentacle in *Dictionnaire Infernal*, Sixième Édition, 1863, p. 518. Cf. also Cornelius Agrippa, Vol. I, p. 196 ff., *De undenario & duodenario cum dupli duodenarii Cabalistica & Orphica*; also I 226 ff., *De Geometricis figuris atque Corporibus qua virtute in magia polleant, & quae quibus elementis convenient, atque coelio.*

karnike devīn (cod. -*vi*) *pūjayed*.¹ 'Having reclined (sat down), one should worship the goddess in a three-cornered fire-pot of the size of a man's hand, with an altar-mouth having [its] point (ear) to the south.' The preparation-rite includes an oblation of ghee and sugar (*ghṛtaçarkarāhoma*), garlands of the red, sweet-smelling oleander (*raktakaravirapuṣpamālā*), an ornament (mark) of red sandal-wood (*raktacandanatilaka*), the partaking of a brahma-carya-oblation (*brahmacaryahavispānam bhaktvā*, cod. *bhaktā*), and a lying on the ground (*bhūmiçayana*).² *S, part second*, adds, *dakṣinābhimukho nityam* 'facing the south constantly,' *kambalāsanam* 'sitting on a woolen blanket,'³ *raktavastraparidhānam* (cod- *trāṇ pari*-) 'putting on a red garment,' and *raktagandhānulepanam* 'anointing with red sandal-wood powder.'⁴ *S, part third*, says also, *sarvatra prāṇāyāmādiṣu* 'in all cases in the holding of the breath in worship, etc.'

The address to the Āsuri-goddess, beginning the "fundamental formula," occurs in *S* several times, mostly in *part third*, with slight variations in form. In one instance it has as one of its introductory phrases, *netratrayāya namah* "obeisance to 'Three-eyes,'" and then continues, *om hrīm kātuke*, etc. Under the title *japamantrā* "whisper-spell," it appears in the form, *om klim hrīm śrīm kṣāum kṣāum śrīm hrīm klim om, kātu patre subhaga*

¹ *Part second* says of it: *trikonakaravuyonisahitam karavuhastamātrām tu kundām kāryam, onisahita* (!) *(yonisahitam?* hardly *oni-*) *ayāta* (*athāto?*) *brāhmaṇa-dakṣināmukhavesine* (!) *(-vāsini?) homa* (*-mayet?*) *karavukunḍanu* (!) *agnā* (!) *(-de tv agnīn?) dakṣinākaravūm param* (*-rā?*) *sidhi* (*siddhiḥ*). 'A fire-pot must be made having a triangular — altar-mouth of the size of a — hand moreover; thereupon (?) one should offer an oblation (?) in the — fire-pot with an altar-mouth having a situation towards the south suitable for worship (?) [having kindled] a fire moreover with a — to the south. The greatest magic (success) [results].' The word *karavu* occurs nowhere else and is not at present translatable.

² Cf. *part second bhojanam havispānam ekasuktām* (!) *(-bhuktām?) bhūmiçayanaṁ brahmacaryam*; also *part third jitendriyāḥ* (cod. *yā*) *pūjayed āsurīn devīm* (cod. *-ri devi*).

³ For explanation see *Durga Puja* (*durgāpūjā*) by *Pratāpachandra Ghosha* (*pratāpachandra ghoṣa*), note 19, p. xxix.

⁴ It heads the preparation-rite with the words *atīha padgatimantra* (-*ah*), and ends it by saying *iti dāñkathitām* (-*ah*) *mantram* (-*ah*). The first seems to mean, 'The going to the feet [of Rudra] text' (*pad* for *pad*). The second is a puzzle; but it probably contains some similar idea referring to the propitiation of the god.

āsuri raktavāsase 'tharvaṇasya duhite 'ghore 'ghore svāhā, oṁ klim hrīṁ cṛiṁ kṣāum kṣāum cṛiṁ hrīṁ klim oṁ.¹

Following the mūlamantra, *S* gives a 'limb-placing ceremony' (*aṅganyāsa*), consisting of "obeisance" paid to the fingers in pairs, and to the two palms and backs of the hands. The object of such a ceremony is said to be the mental assignment of various parts of the body to certain divinities, with accompanying gestures and prayers.² In the present case, the end in view seems to have been the propitiation of Rudra.³ Next in order comes a meditation (*dhyāna*), in which the protection of Durgā is invoked, and mention is made of some of her characteristics, among them the possession of 90,000,000 bodily forms (*durgā navakoṭimūrtisahitā*).

In the case of a woman lying on a couch, as long as she sleeps, one should mutter: 'Of her arisen the going burn, burn: svāhā, svāhā; of her seated the bhaga (pudenda) burn, burn: svāhā, svāhā; of her asleep the mind burn, burn: svāhā, svāhā, svāhā, svāhā; of her awake the heart burn, burn: svāhā, svāhā, svāhā, svāhā, svāhā.'

1. So then we will teach the Āsurī-Kalpa of the Atharva-Veda (atharvan). For her not a 'lunar-day,' nor a 'lunar-mansion,' nor the kindling of a holy fire is decreed.⁴

2. Over all material consisting of ghee, etc., the āsurī⁵ is caused to be muttered⁶ one hundred times, And [let there be] a

¹ For other lists of particles somewhat similar in nature, cf. Durga Puja, pp. 36 end f. and 61 end. It has been thought best to keep the *anusvāra* throughout; the MS uses the *anunāsika* sign, possibly to indicate a prolongation of the vowels by nasalization.

² See Durga Puja, p. 30 ff., and note 21, p. xxxi f.

³ Cf. *part third*, *tatra karāṅgulnyāśah, evāṁ rudayādī (rudrāyādāu) nyāsa evāṁ mantrām (-ah) sāmāṁ (sāma?) nyāsāṁ (-ah) kartavyāṁ (-ah) sadhakottamāī (sādhakottamāīh)*. 'Then the finger-placing ceremony; thus to Rudra in the beginning the nyāsa, thus the mantra, the sāman; the nyāsa is to be performed with the highest magical [rites].'

⁴ *S. part first*, does not contain this formula.

⁵ 'The highest āsurī-ordinance.' Cf. p. 11, foot-note 19, where a fuller but not altogether clear form of the mantra is given.

⁶ Probably the mantra just given, possibly the mūla-mantra.

⁷ Cf. Laws of Manu, II 85, where the statement is made that muttering [the syllable *oṁ*, the words *bhūr*, *bhuvaḥ*, and *svar*, and the Sāvitri ṛc (RV. III 62, 10)] is ten times better than a regular sacrifice; if they are muttered so low that they cannot be understood, they avail one hundred times more than a regular sacrifice; and, if they are recited mentally, one thousand times more. This is possibly the starting point of the notion that muttered words and par-

portion of this¹ consisting of leaves, etc. [Let there be] one, surely, who desires to smite [his] enemies and to render submissive kings.

Owing to the uncertainty of the text,² it has been thought best to omit the translation of one *pāda*, though a provisional reading has been adopted. *S* has nothing corresponding to it, but reads : *atha cṛi āsurimāntrām* (*çryāsurimāntrām*) *mā atharvāṇa ṣeṣh* (*mātharvāṇaṣeṣh*) *asuridevata* (*āsuri-*) *hrīn bijām* (-*m*) *asuri-* *gakti* (*āsuri-*) *naṣṭikachāndah* (-*ndo*) *mama ḡatrukṣayaṁ* (-*yo*) *māraṇe mohane vasikaraṇe* (*vaṣi-*) *stāñbhane* (*stambh-*) *vini-* *yogah*, 'Then me possessing the divine *āsuri*-mantra [let] the seer of the Atharva-ritual, [let] the *āsuri*-divinity [help ?] :

ties possess a peculiar and mysterious power which even the gods cannot escape, and by which the person understanding how to use them can control divine as well as human agencies and accomplish what he wills. At the present time in India, the Brahmans consider it a sacrilege to utter the word *om* (pronounced *aum* as representing the trinity) aloud, and they also still attach wonderful powers to it. Cf. the *om mani padme hūm* of the Buddhists.

S regularly gives the number of oblations as one hundred and eight, and a *mantra* is as regularly said to be pronounced with the oblation. One hundred images are mentioned by *S*, *part second*—*sarṣapatañilahomah* (cod. *parṣ-*) *pratimāgataḥ 108*—but the number 108 follows immediately, as elsewhere.

¹ The *āsuri*-plant.

² The reading of *A* is impossible as it stands, and that of *B* presents difficulties which can hardly be overlooked. The word *jigāiga* could scarcely be anything but a secondary adjective derivative from *jigīga*, meaning "he who desires to conquer" (here fem.), while *garītu* or *āgarītu* might be a 3d, sing., root-aor., imv. or the stem of the inf. used in a compound. It is difficult to see why a woman should be specified as the one desiring to conquer, and even if it were plain the rest would remain unsatisfactory. The root-aor. of the *ṇgam* is confined to the *Vedas*, *Brāhmaṇas*, and *Sūtras* (Whitney, Roots, Verb-Forms, etc.) and may justly be suspected here, though the MSS seem to use some Vedic words, for example, *homa* (probably for *homām*), the *ṇyu* (p. 98, foot-note), and *indha* (*A*, *çloka 8*). The infinitive stem also, as part of a compound, does not here make satisfactory sense, though the form is unobjectionable. The three lines taken together evidently serve as a sort of introduction to the practice, and taking the reading given in the text (as emended from the better MS), the whole may perhaps be rendered freely :

'The *āsuri*-[mantra] is caused to be muttered one hundred times over all sorts of materials, such as ghee, etc.; [There is to be] both a portion of the [*āsuri*] consisting of leaves, etc., and [there is to be] a desire to conquer without [ordinary?] means (by magic?); For [there is] one who both wishes to smite [his] enemies and to render submissive kings.'

While this is not altogether satisfactory from a Sanskrit standpoint, it is the best that can be done at present.

hrīm. [There is] the core of the mantra (seed) possessing the might of āsurī, the desire to destroy, the destruction of my enemy; in the slaying, in the stupefying, in the making submissive, in the fixing like a post [this is] the practice.'

Following this statement *S* has a "contemplation"¹ (*dhyāna*), in which the person should meditate (*dhyāyet*) on the bright four-sided granter of wishes (*cuklāṁ caturbhujāṁ varadāṁ*), having a hook in the hand (*añkuçahastāṁ*), adorned with all ornaments (*sarvālañkārabhūṣitāṁ*), seated in the padmāsa-na-position² on a serpent (*nāgopari padmāsanopavīṣṭāṁ*), and having a gracious countenance (*prasannavadanāṁ*). The MS then has, *iti vaçikarane*, 'Thus [readeth it] in the making submissive.' Secondly, in the fixing like a post (*stambhane*) the person is to meditate on the reddish, four-sided, fearless wish-granter (*kapilāṁ caturbhujāṁ abhayavavaradāṁ*), with sword in hand (*khan̄garahastāṁ*), having as an ornament a half-moon crest(?) (*candrārdhamāulinepathyāṁ*;³ cod. *cañdārdhamāulineprāṁ*), etc. And thirdly, in the slaying or magical incantation for that purpose (*māraṇe*), he should meditate on the blue-colored, four-sided, fearless wish-granter (*nīlavarnāṁ*, etc.), having a "red-stone" in the hand (*rudhira-*), seated on a dead-man (*mṛtamānuṣopavīṣṭāṁ*), wearing a mundāgarland (*mundāmālādhārāṁ*), etc. The meditation contains several vocatives addressed to the goddess, for example, *kṣame*⁴ "gracious one," *nāgayañopavitini* "thou that hast a snake for sacred cord," and so on. The corresponding reflection of *S*, *part third*, written in *çlokas*, begins: 'This is the time-triad meditation. [There is the meditation] pertaining to passion and also [that] pertaining to goodness and [that] pertaining to spiritual darkness; thereupon the highest, accompanied by all sacred rites, divine, hard to be attained accomplishment by magic [takes place],'

atha kālatrayaṁ dhyānam.

*rājasam sāvirkī (!) (sāttvikaṁ) cāiva tāmasam ca tataḥ param,
sarvakarmasamāyuktam sādhanaṁ devadurlabham. I.*

¹ For a similar *dhyāna*, see *Durga Puja*, p. 34 f.

² This word is used as an epithet of Viṣṇu in the sense of having "four arms."

³ A posture in religious meditation. The person sits with his thighs crossed, one hand resting on the left thigh, the other held with the thumb upon his heart, while his eyes are directed to the tip of his nose.

⁴ *Candrārdhamāuli* is an epithet of Çiva.

⁵ An epithet of Durgā.

The three parts of this meditation treat mostly of the adornment and characteristics of a goddess. The first following the passage just cited begins: 'At dawn [one should meditate on the goddess'] shining with reddish apparel, adorned with *guñja*² and *vidula* (?),'—

prātā (cod. *prātarakta*-) *raktāmbarābhāsāṁ guñjāvidumabhūsi-tāṁ* (!) (-*avidula*-?).

It continues with similar expressions, and the third *çloka* reads: 'The one having three eyes and having four mouths, illustrious with the murmuring proceeding from the reading of the Veda, Possessed of staves and a disk,⁴ carrying a sacrifice-spoon⁵ and ladle, a beautiful one,'—

trinetrāṁ ca caturvaktrāṁ vedadhvanivirājītāṁ, dāñdekaṁḍalāiyuktāṁ (!) (*dāñdikāmañḍalāir yuktāṁ*?) *guvah-çrucadharāṁ* (!) (*sruvasruca*-?)⁶ *çubhām.* 3.

It ends with the words *iti rājasam*, 'Thus [readeth] the [meditation] pertaining to passion.' The second begins: 'At midday [one should meditate on] the goddess wearing white apparel, moreover always gracious, Having put on a white garment, carrying a white serpent,' Decked with garlands of *mālati*⁸ along with white sandal-wood ointment, etc., Having an appearance like [that of] the fruit of the *ghātri*,⁹ made beautiful with a string of pearls in the nose,'—

¹ This meditation contains no verb; but from the meditation in *S, part first*, it is evident that *dhyāyet* is to be supplied. The *devīm* is expressed in the next division.

² *Abrus precatorius*.

³ *Calamus rotang* or *Calamus fasciculatus*.

⁴ The disk is mentioned again just below in another section of the meditation. There is a general tendency noticeable in both divisions of *S* to repeat certain ideas in the three parts of the meditation.

⁵ The constant use of these two implements together makes it probable that this is the meaning of the passage, which is very corrupt.

⁶ Transition stem in *-a* from *sruç*, though possibly bad writing for *sruva*. The *sruç* is a large spoon or ladle, made usually of *palāça*- or *khadira*-wood, and is used for pouring ghee on a sacrificial fire; the *sruva* is a small spoon used for skimming the fat from the pot into the *sruç*. The reading *suvahsruca*- may be suspected here.

⁷ There are several plants called *kañcukin*, and it may possibly be one of these.

⁸ *Jasminum grandiflorum*.

⁹ *Emblea myrobalan*,

çuklāmbadarāṁ devi (!) (-vīñ) madhyāhne tu sadā çivāṁ (!)
(-vāṁ),
çubhravastraparidhānāṁ (-nāṁ) çretakañcukidhāriṇī (!) (çvetakañcukidhāriṇī?) 5.

çubhracandanalepadyāṁ mālatīmālāmaṇḍitāṁ (-pādyamāl-?),
ghātriphalasamākārāṁ nāsāmāuktikaçobhitāṁ. 6.

To these expressions may be added *triçūlacandrāhidharāṁ* (cod. *-hidharā*) 'bearing a trident and a white serpent,' and *çvetavṛṣa-bhasarhsthitāṁ* 'standing by a white bull.' It ends with the words: *iti tāmasam* 'Thus [readeth] the [meditation] pertaining to spiritual darkness.' The third division is substantially as follows: 'In the afternoon moreover [he should meditate on] the goddess made beautiful with a black ornament, Having put on a black garment, decorated with an ornament (mark) of *kastūrī* (musk?), Adorned with three eyes in a streak of black antimony [applied to the lashes as a collyrium], Sitting down along with a bird, made illustrious with a conch-shell and a discus.' Possessed of a blue lotus,¹ decked with garlands of holy basil,² Thus at evening the goddess³ Lakṣmī, in a black color, obeisance! one praises' (?),—

aparāhṇe (cod. *-ānhe*) *tu sā* (!) *tāṁ*?) *devi* (!) (-vīñ) *kṛṣṇālāmākāra-çobhitāṁ*,
kṛṣṇapāṭaparidhānāṁ (-āṁ) *kasturitilakāñkitāṁ* (!) (*kasturitila-kāñjītāṁ*?).

kṛṣṇakajjalarekhāyāṁ locanatrayabhuṣitāṁ,⁴

vihārge (-*haṅgena*) *sāṁśināṁ* (-āśināṁ) *gañkhacakravirājī-tāṁ*. I.⁵

¹ Cf. *gañkhacakra* *gadādhara* 'holding a conch-shell, a discus, and a mace'; an epithet of Viṣṇu.

² *Nymphaea caerulea*.

³ *Ocimum sanctum*.

⁴ Possibly the reading should be *rāmāṁ devīm* 'the beautiful goddess'; but there is reason to believe that it should be *ramāṁ*. Preceding the "Time-triad meditation," there is a brief āsurī-meditation of a similar nature, introduced by the words *āsuridhānāṁ ādāu ca vāididhānam* (*vedī*-?) 'The āsurī-meditation and in the beginning the altar-meditation,' in which Çri and Lakṣmi are both mentioned (cod. *çri ca te lakṣmī*), and the meditation of *S*, *part first*, referring to Durgā also mentions Lakṣmi. The tendency of the MS to repeat has been mentioned.

⁵ *trilocani* is an epithet of Durgā; *trilocana*, of Çiva. It is probable that the *neutrātraya* used in a form of the mūlamantra (p. 17) refers to the latter.

⁶ The numbering of the MS has been followed.

nilotpalasamāyuktāṁ tulasiṁlāmaṇḍitāṁ,
eva (-vam?) sāya (-yah?) ramā (-mām?) devi (-vīm?) kṛṣṇavarṇe
namo (-mah?) stute. 2.

The next passage is almost hopelessly corrupt. It contains enough syllables for more than three *çloka*s, has the figure four (4) at the end, and seems to emphasize some of the items already mentioned.¹ It concludes with the words: *ity adi (-dāv?) āsuri-*
trikālādhyānam 'Thus in the beginning [of the rite (?) readeth] the *āsuri* time-triad meditation.' Further references to the goddess follow, among them, *mahādevi (-devy?) aghorakarma-*
*kāriṇī*² (-ṇī?) "great goddess non-terrific deed-performer." The whole ends as follows: 'And also [thou who dost grant] much compassion [and] who dost bestow many a success, The meditation of Brahma, Viṣṇu and Civa, deliver the three worlds, O mother.' Thus precisely [readeth] the supreme meditation. O *āsuri*, supreme mistress, [Thou art] the giver of success to the magical [rites] producing enjoyment and deliverance. Thus in the beginning [readeth it] in the *āsuri*-meditation,—

aneka (-kām?) cāiva kārunyām (-yam?) anekasiddhidāyini, (-im
dā-?),
brahmavishnuharadhyānaṁ trāhi trāilokyam ambike. 3.

ity eva paramadhyānam āsuri parameçvari,
sādhakānām siddhidātā bhuktimuktiphālapradā. 4.

ity ādi (ādāv?) āsuridhyāne.

The significance of these references to the goddess *āsuri* will be discussed below. It appears from the references to the three parts of the day that the oblations were made at the periods named, and the three parts of the meditation, in the order given, were used with them, i. e. the one referring to *rajas* was used in the morning, that referring to *tamas* at noon, and the one refer-

¹ The passage begins with the words: *sāttvikāṁ pūrvāṅke*, which should probably be emended to *iti sāttvikam. pūrvāṅhe*; for the conclusion to the third part of the meditation is lacking in the MS, and the words *madhyāṅhe* and *aparāṅhe* follow in the two succeeding lines. The reference to the *trisāmīdhyam* becomes clear only on the supposition that *sāttvikam* ends the third division, and that the rest of the passage is supplementary to the whole.

² The passage is too corrupt to determine whether the words should be *voc.* or *acc.*; but they are probably *voc.* Cf. the passage cited just below, also p. 11, foot-note 6.

³ Commonly used of Pārvati, wife of Civa, i. e. Durgā.

ring to sattva in the afternoon.¹ The number of oblations has been mentioned above, and it will be again considered below in another connection.

3. The wise man should offer as an oblation a mixture of ghee and fine asuri-meal [in the form of] an image, Having kindled a fire of arka-wood fuel, having chopped the image, moreover, with a weapon.

4. He [becomes] submissive before whose feet [a person] offers eight thousand oblations. A woman [is made] submissive by [an image of asuri-meal] anointed with ghee: Brahmans in a fire of palaça-wood:

5. Kṣatriyas, moreover, by [an image] anointed with sugar: but Vaigyas by [one] mixed with curds: Çūdras, furthermore, by [those]² mixed with salt: the wise man should make meal of black mustard.

6. As a result of an oblation of asuri [extending] up to the seventh day,³ all these [are made] submissive.

The practice in full⁴ seems to have been as follows: The wizard first ground asuri⁵ into meal, with which he made an image, symbolizing the person whom he desired to overcome.⁶ He used kindlings (samidhs)⁷ of arka-wood for Rajas and

¹ It is to be observed that the corresponding meditation in *S. part first*, is also divided into three minor reflections. No time is mentioned with the divisions in that place; but it is probable that the same rule was observed as that laid down in *part third*. It also appears from the former, that each reflection was regarded as instrumental in accomplishing some particular part of the complete process of subjugation or destruction.

² The change to the plu. masc. seems at the first glance to be for the sake of the metre; but since çūdras *lavanamigrayā* makes even a better pāda than the one in the text, it may be inferred that a different word was purposely implied in the case of Çūdras. As a matter of fact the word most appropriate to them is masc. Cf. çloka 5 and foot-note.

³ Cf. p. 12, notes 8, 10, and 12 end; also p. 13, note 3, and p. 27.

⁴ See çloka s 3, 4, and 5, and foot-notes.

⁵ Probably the leaves as well as the seeds. See translation of çloka 2.

⁶ Cf. *part third* (beginning of the rite used to subdue a Brahman), *purvabrahmatimāñ* (*pūrvabrahmapratimāñ?*) *kṛtvā* 'having made the former image of a Brahman,' i. e. as before.

⁷ The samidhs used in offering oblation were small sticks of wood about a span (9 in.) long and about as thick as a man's thumb. Cf. Colebrooke, Asiatic Researches, VII 233. The usual number is seven; but the Gṛhyasamgraha-Pariçīṣṭā of Gobhilaputra gives nine and their names (I 28 f.).—

..... ity etāḥ samidho nava,
viçīrṇā vidalā hrasvā vakra stulā kṛṣṇā dvividhā, 28.
kṛmidaṣṭā ca dirghā ca varjanīyāḥ prayatnataḥ.

women, *palāça*-wood for Brahmans, *khadira*-wood for Kṣatriyas, *udumbara*-wood for Vāiçyas and Çūdras, and *nimba*¹-wood for foes. Having chopped up the image with a sword, he finally offered it as an oblation, adding ghee for a king or woman, ghee [and honey²?] for a Brahman, sugar for princes, curds for third caste persons, salt for fourth caste persons, and pungent mustard oil for foes.³ It is to be observed that in the case of a king the person was to advance with the right foot; in that of a woman, with the left. This is doubtless to be put with the similar Hindoo notion that the throbbing of the right eye or arm is lucky for a man and unlucky for a woman, while with the left eye or arm the case is reversed.

S, part third, while much fuller in its details than the other two sections, adds little of importance or interest. A few points in which it differs from them may be mentioned, for example, in the rite used for ensnaring a king it has *ravikāṣṭhena prajvālyā* 'having kindled [a fire] with a stick of *ravi*⁴-wood'; it also pre-

Dr. Bloomfield, in his edition, thus translates: "dies sind die neun *sāmidhs* (Zündhölzer). Ein zerbrochenes, ein gespaltenes, eins das kürzer (als eine Spanne) ist, ein krummes, eins das dicker (als ein Daumen) ist, eins das zwei Zweige hat, ein von Würmern zerfressenes, und eins das länger (als eine Spanne) ist, sind nach Kräften zu vermeiden." The most complete description of them, however, is to be found in the *grhya-sūtras*.

¹ In the order named these trees are the *Calotropis gigantea*, the *Butea frondosa*, the *Acacia catechu*, the *Ficus glomerata*, and the *Azadirachta indica*. Some idea of the Hindoo view in regard to these woods may be obtained from the *Āitareya-Brāhmaṇa*, II 1, The Erection of the Sacrifice-post (*yūpa*); and their appropriateness may be inferred from the *Laws of Manu*, II 45, where it is stated that the Brahman's staff should be of *vilva*- (*Ægle marmelos*) or *palāça*-wood; and the Kṣatriya's, of *vaṭa*- (*Ficus indica*) or *khadira*-wood; and the Vāiçya's, of *pi lu*- (*Careya arbora* or *Salvadora persica*) or *udumbara*-wood. Çūdras are not *dvijas* "twice-born," and so do not come under the rule. For *nimba*, **part third** uses *picumanda*, which is only another name for the same wood, and verifies the emendation (p. 12, foot-note 12 end).

² See p. 12, foot-note 9.

³ The use of an image is treated of in the Introduction above. *Kāuç. Sū.*, *adhyāya* 6, contains further material of a similar sort. See *Kāuç.* 35, 28; 17, 54; and 49, 22.

⁴ Böhtlingk, Lex. V, 172, cites *ravi* as the *Calotropis gigantea* which makes it identical with *arka*. In this sense it seems to have been known heretofore to the lexicographers only.

This article was in type before I had access to the index to Böhtlingk's lexicon, which also contains the word *aparājaya* and perhaps others. It has not been in my power to carefully consult that work for all the new or doubtful words in these MSS.

scribes in this connection the “whisper-spell” (p. 17 above): in that for ensnaring a woman¹ it has the heading *rāmāvāçikaraṇakāmāḥ* and refers to the two fundamental formulas² (*mūlamāntrāu*): under the ensnaring of a Brahman it prescribes white sandal-wood, a white wreath, and a white garment with other ornaments (*çvetacandanaśaṁyuktāḥ çvetamālā- . . . çvetavastra-samanvitam*); the oblation must also be performed with especial care (*prayatnena homayet*) and in preparing it use is made of balls of Guggula³ gum (*guggulāir guṭikāḥ*—cod. *gugulāi guṭikā—kṛtvā*), black mustard seeds (*rājasarṣapāḥ*), leaves of the betel-plant (*nāgavallidalaīr hutāḥ*), and other vegetable products, such as fruits and flowers;⁴ finally, under the subjugation of a Çudra, it mentions also the Cāñḍālas. A few passages from the same division may be cited with reference to the number of oblations and the time for performing them. In the rite used against women: ‘Afterward the muttering is to be performed, moreover, one hundred and eight times by (of) men,’—

paçcāj jaþāḥ tu kartavyam aṣṭottaraçatāḥ nṛṇām.

‘Having muttered the fundamental formula in the mouth and [having performed] one hundred and eight [rites], The girl wastes away in (of) her middle [parts]; thereupon the girl is likely to become submissive,’—

*mūlamantre (-trām) mukhe jaþtvāṣṭottaraçatāni ca,
daþyate madyānām yoṣā tato yoṣā bhaved vaçā.*

¹ Under this heading four different uses are given with considerable minuteness of detail. The words employed to designate a woman are, *rāmā* “beautiful woman,” *yoṣā* “girl, young woman,” and (once only) *stri* “woman, wife.” The words used to signify her subjection are, *vaçagā* “obedient” (second use), *vaçī* “submissive” (third use), and *vaçyagā* “subdued” (fourth use). (This last word is also used of a Vāiçya and of a Çudra.) In the first use where *stri* occurs, it is difficult to say what the word is. It appears that the practice was used in some instances as a philter, and there is even reason to believe that this may have been its most common use. Cf. Virg. Ec. VIII 64 ff.; Hor. Sat. I, VIII 23 ff., and Epod. V; Lucian Dial. Mer. IV 4 and 5; Ovid Met. VII 224 ff., and Heroid. VI 91; and see çlokas 14 and 15, and p. 8, foot-note 2.

² It will be remembered that two formulas were given for a woman. Under the preliminary rites in *part third* the plu. is used (*mūlamāntrāig ca*).

³ Bdellium or the exudation of the Amyris agallochum.

⁴ From the statements here made, and another passage (p. 12, foot-note 9) which says that by oblation ‘a certain high number consisting of hundreds’ (*gatyahēvara*) leads a Brahman to one’s will, it may be inferred that the eight thousand oblations of the text (p. 12) have special reference to Brahmans.

In the rite for a Vāiçya: 'Having done this (kindled the fire and performed the other preliminary rites), at the three periods of the day, he should burn the prepared äsuri [made into an image]. With one hundred and eight [rites] so long should he perform the muttering at the three periods [morning, noon, and afternoon],'—

*ewān dinatrayāḥ kṛtvādhyāktām (-aktām?) äsurim dahet,
aṣṭottaraçatāis tāvat trikālam japam äcaret. 3.*

'One should perform with pains the muttering during one month uninterruptedly,'—

japam kuryāt prayatnena māsam ekaṁ nirantaram.

Under this heading also (first çloka) the dark fortnight, i. e. from full to new moon (*kṛṣṇapakṣe*) is specified as a time for performing the rite. In respect to a Kṣatriya, it is said that he should be subdued in the course of twelve days (*dvādaçāir vāsarāih*). Finally, regarding a foe, it says: 'At the eight periods (watches) of the day having done honor with the mantra he goes against [his] foe; On the seventh day the completion of the foe-slaying becomes fixed,'—

*paraṁ pratyeti mantreṇa pūjayitvā dināstakam,
saptāhe ripughātasya nidhanam bhavati dhruvam (cod. dhṛvam). 3.*

Most of the references agree in fixing the completion of the ensnaring on the seventh day. One hundred and eight oblations performed in six days amounts to just eighteen per day, and these performed at the *trisāmādhyaṁ* would make six in the morning, six at noon, and the same in the afternoon, which was evidently the plan followed as a rule.

With pungent mustard oil [in the oblation]¹ at the three periods of the day, surely one makes a split in the family.

7. With the hairs of a dog,² moreover, [a person is] afflicted with

¹ It is probable that äsuri was to be used in this and all of the following prescriptions, though it is omitted in many of them.

² The passage which is found only in **B** at this point is very corrupt, yields no connected sense, and contains nothing of importance. It is probably an interpolation. Its general meaning seems to be about as follows:

'Having then, moreover, smeared a leaf with the hairs of a dog, or having well smeared with mustard seeds (!) he should fumigate the liṅga (perfume it with incense).

He should then give a measure (?) of white mustard drink: all doubt vanishes (dies). And there is health in eating and in fasting: [it is] the practice in all diseases.

epilepsy during three days.¹ The stopping [of this is brought about] by milk, honey, and ghee [in the oblation]. [By performing the rite] with salt, however, he [becomes] afflicted with fever.²

8. In a fire of arka³-wood samidhs, furthermore, one establishes a source of boils. Of these he should understand the cure (stopping) with the help of *suregvari* and with ghee.

The word *suregvari*, which occurs in one other passage below (p. 33), is thus defined by the PETERS. LEX.: *Bez. der Durgā . . . der Lakshmi . . . der Rādhā . . . der himmlischen Gaṅgā*. It here means evidently *āsurī*⁴ (probably both plant and divinity). The use of this word for *āsurī*, combined with the fact that various words found in the *āsurī*-meditation (p. 20 f.) are or may be used of Durgā, makes a strong presumptive argument that *āsurī* was regarded as a form of Durgā. *suregvari*, however, may be used of Lakṣmī, who is spoken of in the same connection, and who appears again below. It will also be observed

Surely the well known ones who live by alms (?) [Brahmans] become bad as a result of muttering. It is to be muttered eleven times in succession. The split in the family may become destroyed (he is likely to become injured by a split in the family?)

In the subjugation of a third caste person he should offer as an oblation (?) [an image] made with powdered *suratis* (?) (*surabhis* "nutmegs"?). In the overcoming (doing up) of a Cūdra, moreover, let [the person] go (?) with a lotus-plant (*padmini*) to a place where four ways meet.

Having written the name, having seized [it] pressed by the finger (?), [there arises] headache, fever, [and] colic. Disagreement is a non-meeting with prosperity, a non-meeting with prosperity.

Or the *ādyā* of the *kalpa* (?) [is] to be used in a quaternion of Brahmins, etc.: thus in their coming together, the magic practice of the four even is made manifest.'

The word *ādyā* is a puzzle. It is an epithet of Durgā, but can hardly be used in that sense here. If for *ādyā* (neū.), it may possibly refer to the *mūlamantra* as the beginning of the *kalpa*. It does not seem likely that the MS reading *valpādyā* is a new word.

The scenting the *liṅga* with incense may possibly be a love-charm. Cf., however, Herod. I 198, ὁσάκις δὲ ἀν μιχθή γνωσκει τῇ ἐντοῦ ἀνήρ Βαβυλόνιος, περὶ θυμίημα καταγύρμενον ἔται, ἐτέρωθι δὲ ἡ γυνὴ τώντο ποιέει.

¹ *S* 'Having tied up (made one) the *āsurī* [in the form of an image?] with a hair from a white ass, he with whose name he may make oblation is suddenly afflicted with (hidden in ?) epilepsy.'

² *āsurī* and milk are used in making the one hundred and eight oblations for his restoration to health.

³ *S* has simply *āsurī* and *nimba* leaves.

⁴ *S* 'Having made *āsurī*, 108, he becomes well (in his own condition).'
ghṛtāktām is probably omitted.

that a large part of the *dhyānas* consists of "stolen thunder,"¹ a fact not to be wondered at, since the people who used these rites were hardly capable of originating any ideas themselves, and would naturally borrow any that might seem suitable. In the same way they would refer to deities, especially evil ones, who might be regarded as likely to give success. A mixture of direct reference to *āsuri*, and allusions to these other divinities, is therefore to be expected, and clear conceptions are hardly to be looked for, since confusion of the two sets of ideas is almost inevitable with an untrained mind, and it is to be seriously doubted whether those who practiced the rites had any really definite idea as to the exact meaning of their 'prayers.' The confusion of divinities would probably only make the spell appear all the more potent because of the mystery² which it created; for the mysterious is an essential element of all magic.

9. In a fire of arka-wood, with [asuri] anointed with arka-plant and milk, [a person] may cause the two eyes of [his] foe to twitch (burst).

S adds a clause which is not altogether clear. The *vgrabh* regularly takes the acc., and emending to *nāma*, the meaning is, 'When he mentions his name.' If emended to the ins.,³ which seems more likely from the MS reading, the use must be a technical one in some such sense as: 'When he grasps [the image] along with the name,' i. e. having the name attached to it.⁴

¹ Cf. references to the *Durgā Puja*, foot-notes, pp. 18 and 20.

² That the capacity of the Hindoo mind for the mysterious is not small can be seen from a stanza in the *RV.* (X 54, 3), in which Indra appears as the begetter of his own parents:

*kd u nū te mahimānah samasyāsmāt pūrva ḥayō 'ntam āpuḥ,
ydn mātāraṁ ca pitṛaṁ ca sākdm djanayathās tanvāḥ svāyāh.* 3.

Grassmann thus translates: "Gab je es Sänger, welche vor uns lebten, die deiner ganzen Grösse Ziel erreichten? Der du zugleich den Vater und die Mutter aus deinem eignen Leibe dir erzeugt hast." After this, some obscurity in the thought and a slight confusion of divinities may be pardonable in such a document as the *Āsuri-Kalpa*, in which the object in view is not so much the sense as the use of potent words and particles to accomplish a result by magic.

³ Cf. p. 12, foot-note 14, which favors the emendation.

⁴ Cf. pp. 9 and 27, foot-note 2. **Part third** begins the practice with the words: *atha netranāganam. ravikāṣṭhe kṛte home* 'Then the eye-destruction. Oblation having been made on a stick of ravi-wood.' It prescribes *āsuri*, arka-plant, and salt in the oblation, and says: 'And the seventh day having arrived (been obtained) he becomes deprived of his eye,'—

saptame vāsare prāpte ṣcakṣuhināg (!) cakṣurhi-) ca jāyate. 3.

The flesh of a dead man, his remains of course, and ashes from a funeral pile.¹

10. He who [is] touched with the meal [made] of these becomes possessed of a ridiculous character.² Deliverance from this is produced as a result of an oblation with [āsuri] anointed with goat's milk.

11. Tagara, kuṣṭha, and mānsī³ plants and also certainly leaves of this [āsuri]: He who [is] touched with these [ground] fine, moreover, runs about behind [one's] back.⁴

12. Fruits and roots of this [āsuri] with the fragrant fat of an elephant. From contact with fine material of these⁵ [a person] runs after those devoid of sense.

It adds: 'Then the cure (causing to cease). Having made an oblation of āsuri anointed (?) with cow's milk, with fires of ravi-wood as a result of his own oblation (*maha*) he becomes well (goes to the being in his own condition); the eye-disease should disappear (become vanished).'

ātha gāṇīāu (-tih?).
godugdhenāsuriptupta (!) (-rīm liptām?) huvā ravihutāṇāiḥ,
svamahāt svasthatām yāti netraruṇī militā bhavet.

Part first has 'āsuri anointed with milk.' The similarity of the means used in producing and curing the evils is noteworthy as an evidence of the popular notion in India that he who can cure disease must also be able to produce it and vice versa.

¹ *S* 'Having united āsuri, ashes from a funeral pile [and] human flesh, the remains of a dead [man].' **Part third** adds fine chopped meat, the hair of a Cāndāla, and some other things not yet clear (*ullakamayāiḥ*),—

āsuriṁ ca citābhasma janah pīcītāḥ satyute,
cāndālākeśaṣṭhyuktam ullakamayāiḥ saha (sahitam),
mṛtanirmālyasamṣṭhyuktam qādīr (-im?) ekatra kārayet. 2.

(*qādī* is probably a fem. derivative from *qād* in the sense of "sixness," a collection of six. The person unites the six items mentioned.) It puts this rite under those to be employed against an enemy, ending the whole with the words: *iti qātrukṣayavivaraṇam* 'Thus [readeth] the detailed account of the destruction of an enemy.'

² *S* 'out of his senses.' It adds that the mantra is to be pronounced over the meal.

³ Tagara is *Tabernaemontana caronaria*, also a powder made from it; kuṣṭha is a plant used for the cure of takman (fever?), the *Costos speciosus* or *arabicus*; mānsī may be *jaṭamānsī* (*Nardostachys jatamansi*), kakkoli, or mānsachandā. The MSS seem to require a plant called kuṣṭhamānsī. No such plant is mentioned elsewhere so far as known. The omission of the *anusvāra* is easily explained, and it appears in *çloka 22*. *S* reads, *nagara kuṣṭha te upatni mānsī*.

⁴ *S* 'becomes a servant (attendant) behind [his] back.'

⁵ *S* mentions five plants besides āsuri-flowers: tagara, kuṣṭha, ucīra (fragrant root of *Andropogon muricatus*), usrā (*Anthericum tube-*

13. Uninjured leaves [of *asuri*] the dark *uçira*-root, likewise mustard seeds. From the meal of these the former result¹ [is produced] and also by these invincibleness [is obtained].²

According to **A** this marks the close of the first division of the practices, all of which thus far have been for the purpose of producing ill, curing the same, or getting the mastery of some one. In all of them the materials have been ground into meal, to be used either in making an image of the intended victim or to be applied to him in person. Those that follow have already been discussed above.

14. Flowers [of *asuri*?], realgar, and millet and *tagara* plants, With the juice from the temples of a huge rutting elephant,³⁴

15. And the women who approach [become] submissive to (servants of) the one anointing their feet. Having taken this [*asuri*] in bloom, *añjana*,⁵ [and] *nāgakeçara*-plant.

rosum), and some other plant which is not clear. The *tgh* may possibly stand for *jh* (p. 13, foot-note 18), in which case an emendation to *jhāṭā* (*Jasminum auriculatum*) might be suspected. A correct *pāda* can then easily be made, though there is no MS authority for it, by omitting the doubtful word *othasi*: *usravī jhāṭāṁ tu pañcakam*. It prescribes the *mantra*, and says, 'He whom he touches becomes submissive.'

¹ Probably the running after those devoid of sense.

² **S** says, 'He should make into fine meal, moreover, *asuri*-flowers and leaves, and flowers and fruits, along with fruit of the *nāgendra* (betel?). He becomes submissive whom he touches with [this meal] consecrated by mantras muttered over it.' The use of the *mantra*, or muttered spell, seems to be an essential element in all these practices.

³ The reading *-medasa*- 'fat (of a huge elephant)', may be suspected here possibly, though the evident nature of the compound favors the MS reading.

⁴ The two MS readings of this *pāda* are neither of them entirely satisfactory. The MSS agree save in the two middle syllables of the last two feet. **S** gives no help. It reads: 'He should make into fine meal, moreover, realgar, and millet, *tagara* [and] *nāgakeçara* (*Mesua roxburghii*) plants, along with *asuri*-fruit. [He should mutter the spell] one hundred and eight [times] (one hundred and eight [mantras should he mutter]?). He whom he touches with [this meal] consecrated by the *mantra* muttered over it becomes submissive.' From the connection it appears that the *pāda* must refer to or contain instructions for the person using the philter. **B**'s reading would mean then :

'[Let him be] preparing [the mixture], however, (*kim . . . tu*) without help (in the manner [of one] having no servant).'

The idea may possibly be that the power of the charm would be impaired or diverted if another had anything to do with it. The *akṛd varam* of **A** seems to mean 'not acting the suitor,' or something similar. Cf. p. 14, foot-note 6.

⁵ An eye salve or ointment made from *Amomum xanthorrhiza* or antimony, used as a cosmetic.

16. He whom¹ [a person] looks at with [his] eyes anointed with this [compound becomes his] servant. Añjana, tagara, kuṣṭha-and devija kāṣṭha² precisely,

17. And mānsī plants [are] a cause of good fortune, moreover, to all creatures. From an oblation of one hundred thousand of the samidhs of this [āsurī] great treasure is beheld.³

18. From one thousand leaves [of āsurī] anointed with ghee, curds⁴ (?), and honey [in the oblation, a person becomes] possessed of grown-up sons. One obtains, moreover, a submissive kingdom from three thousand leaves of this, [āsurī, offered as an oblation].

S says, 'For the sake of a kingdom one should make an oblation of āsurī lakṣmi anointed with honey and ghee, he obtains the kingdom.' Lakṣmi is used as a name for several propitious plants, evidently by a sort of personification, and its use here as an extension of the name for black mustard is significant because it is also used in the āsurī meditations above.

19. The obtaining of one thousand gold pieces [comes] from one hundred thousand leaves⁵ of this [āsurī, offered as an oblation], And likewise one thousand mutterings of him who partakes of milk over water.⁶

20. Then in a vessel filled with water let him strew palaçı twigs.⁷ He is likely to be freed from ill-luck⁸ as a result of an ablution, in a golden vessel, however.

¹ *B* 'whoever he looks at,' a better reading in some respects; but *S* supports *A*. It also adds the usual muttering of spells over the salve.

² Probably kāṣṭha-dāru (*Pinus deodora*), called also deva-dāru. Here called "goddess-born." *S* has a different statement: 'He should perfume himself with the smoke of five parts of āsurī [flowers, leaves, etc.], he who smells the scent of it becomes submissive.'

³ *S* 'Having offered an oblation of āsurī anointed with curds, honey, and ghee, he should make an oblation; he obtains great treasure, ten thousand [oblations should he make]. A man [will reach] the age of one hundred years you know [if he does this].'

⁴ *S* and the metre both favor the omission of this word.

⁵ *S* 'ten thousand āsurī fruits, having offered as an oblation.'

⁶ *S* 'Having partaken of milk over āsurī and water [and] having taken a position facing the south (?), he should mutter ten thousand times.'

⁷ A species of climbing plant, called pattravalli, parnavalli, and palācikā. *S* 'With āsurī twigs having made full [a vessel] consecrated by one hundred and eight spells muttered over it, he should bathe himself, he should perfume himself (?) with incense.'

⁸ *S* 'He sets aside ill-luck; in good breeding he puts away the disposition to (onset of) anger' (?) The reading *vināge kopa-* is suspiciously like *vināya-kebhyah*; but other similar cases occur.

21. [A person is likely to be released], as a result of an ablution, from obstacles and also from unfortunate ill-luck. And touched by the water, moreover, they run about behind [them].¹

22. Uçīra, tagara, kuṣṭha, musta,² mustard seeds, and leaves of this [āsuri]. When quickly touched with meal [made of these] even a lord should become submissive.

23. Tulasi, bhūmada, [and?] devi.³ Touched with the meal [made of these?] likewise [a person becomes] submissive. In case of fear of a Rājā, [let] sureçvari be used. From purification with it, likewise the carrying [it with one].⁴

24. No portentous occurrence is likely to be his, likewise no small misfortune. [He is] neither devoid of power nor destitute of children in whose house the divine āsuri is, in whose house the divine āsuri is.⁵

Thus endeth the Āsuri-Kalpa.

¹ *S* 'An ill-favored woman should become well-favored.' The ill-luck seems to be especially a husband's dislike, and the last clause may mean, therefore, that the husbands become very attentive.

² A species of grass (*Cyperus rotundus*). *S* omits.

³ This line is not clear: tulasi is the Holy Basil; devi may be one of several plants, *Sansevieria roxburghiana*, *Medicago esculenta*, *Trigonella corniculata*, etc.; and bhūmada "earth giver," may be a plant or simply an epithet of one. If a plant, it is probably āsuri (cf. *varadā* used in the meditations). Two other meanings are possible: 'Holy basil, the earth-giving goddess,' and 'Holy basil [and] the earth-giving goddess [āsuri].' *S* has a different statement: 'Fourthly, with respect to [evils] such as (consisting of) fever, etc., one should mutter [the spell] one hundred and eight times. By means of a purification, destruction is averted.' For *prakṣīṇa*, cf. Peters. Lex., *prakṣīṇam idam devadattasya* "Dies ist der Ort wo D. umgekommen ist." It might be rendered 'Here the death (destruction) of D. [took place].'

⁴ *S* has, 'Having muttered [the spell] one hundred times (?) he should put āsuri-meal on his head. He who has been seized is released. For those who have been overpowered by sin (?) he should make an oblation of āsuri one hundred and eight times; thereupon [the person] is at once released.'

⁵ In place of this statement *S* has: 'Thereupon he causes the text to become clear by the good-will of men. Let the āsuri text be completed.' It adds the usual ending:

'The Āsuri-Kalpa [is] concluded.'



LIFE.

Herbert William Magoun was born Feb. 17, 1856, at Bath, Maine. In 1871 he entered the high school at Worcester, Mass., where he remained about two years and three months, completing the third year's work under private instruction at Bath, Maine. The last year of preparation for college was spent at Grinnell, Iowa, in the academy connected with Iowa College. He graduated from that institution in 1879, and during the following year acted as assistant in the Oskaloosa High School near Grinnell. At the close of the year he went east and accepted a position as principal of a grammar school at Bath, Maine, from which he was called, after one year's service, to Grinnell as a tutor at his *alma mater*. After remaining there three years, he resigned this position to go to the Johns Hopkins University; but was induced to remain a year with a Hartford insurance company for which he had done some work during the summer of 1884. In the fall of 1885 he entered the university, taking Greek as his major study and Latin and Sanskrit as minors. In Jan., 1887, he made Sanskrit his major course and soon after took a scholarship in that study. The following year he was appointed Fellow in Sanskrit and also taught the beginner's class in that language. For the year 1888-9 he acted as director of the Johns Hopkins University gymnasium during the absence of the director in Europe, and gave instruction in Swedish gymnastics; but he also continued his Sanskrit studies and gave instruction in the *Nala*, *Hitopadeṣa*, and *Rig-Veda*.

